

8-27-88

L. M. J.

Russell Monday morning  
August 27, 1888.

My dear Father Stephen:  
Your letter is  
just recd. Do not worry for us.  
The boys are contented and  
happy, and I shall keep them  
so, even if it does cost a few  
dollars.

9 Menominees came Wednesday,  
fine boys - good looking -  
Males with 15 boys, Thursday.  
Friday I took all the  
boys to the Jasper County  
fair - spent all the after-  
noon - Went in the fair free.  
Boys saw everything in the  
fair races included - were  
delighted.

Bought marbles - ball  
ball club - got them playing

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ball. Had them write letters home. I read the letters before they were sent to the P.O. They sent a good account home.

We give them good food and plenty of it. They are satisfied. We have some smoked beef, and I bought fresh beef in Russelton. Sisters could not bake bread enough on the small stove, so I bought bread in Russelton.

The range has come, and I telegraphed this morning to Chicago for a man to come and put it up. Basement finished, or nearly so. Plaster on most of the building already. First coat of plaster on boys' dormitory goes on to day. Carpenters are laying floors in story above basement.

Just near the end of haying.

We thresh our rye day after tomorrow. Barn commencing to day. Let out on contract for \$1900. This does not include painting. There are no ventilators marked in the plan, but I will get them on, also I will put in a track and hay carrier in ridge which are not in the plan.

These extras will not cost much. In school building the floor in upper story is single and had to be laid before plastering. I bought oil and oiled it before plastering so as to preserve it. I oil all floors as soon as laid to keep them clean. All work going on fast.

Important.

We have no books. The boys have

no change of <sup>4</sup>shirts or any other clothing. I told them to keep on what they have and be patient till you come, and they would all get shirts etc. etc. Does Kauff have to put in the school desks? It runs in my mind that it is in his contract. I shall ask. If we must put them in, we must soon attend to it. Boys are anxious for school to commence. Let Mr. Lusk look at the school books he has. If there are 3<sup>rd</sup> 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> Readers etc. they should be sent at once. The books did not come yet.